

Remarks

The Office Action dated December 1, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, and 13-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 9-11 stand rejected. Claims 4-8 and 12-16 stand objected to. Claims 2, 4, 10, and 12 have been canceled.

The rejection of Claims 1-3 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carruth (US 4,904,443) in view of Toshiba (JO 2168195) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite all the recitations of allowable Claim 4, including the recitations of intervening Claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Carruth and Toshiba.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite all the recitations of allowable Claim 12, including the recitations of intervening Claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 9 is patentable over Carruth and Toshiba.

Claims 2 and 10 have been canceled.

Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1 and Claim 11 depends from independent Claim 9. When the recitations of dependent Claims 3 and 11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1 and 9 respectively, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 3 and 11 likewise are patentable over Carruth and Toshiba.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 1-3 and 9-11 be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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